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more largely in degree than in kind from the problems of the nation at large. The same causes are operating to hinder or to stimulate progress whether the plains where they are actuating are prairie or coastal, whether the mountains are Appalachian or Rocky, whether the crops are cotton, or corn, or wheat, or fruit, or vegetables. For this reason it is very appropriate that Dr. Knight should generalize from his data concerning the problems of educational administration and practice in general and as affecting the rural schools in particular.

The book is a contribution. It is the work of a scholar but avoids the appearance of over-scholarly dry-rot through a very judicious use of the footnote reference. It is written in a delightful style, has helpful summaries and suggestive questions for further study which will help make it usable as a text in college classroom or in teachers study classes.

### A PROTEST

*Editor High School Journal:*

Will you please give space for the following discussion?

It is believed and accepted by all forward-looking citizens of the state that the high school contests instituted at the University, first as debates in 1913 and later including athletics, put into the school life of the state an impetus that has had, is having, and will continue to have an untold effect for good. These contests were instituted that every bona fide high school student in the state might take full advantage of them. However, as the spirit of rivalry and the desire to win out by the various schools has increased, the ethics of the original organization has been somewhat changed. At first it was required that a bona fide student must have been in attendance a certain percentage of the school period and must have made a passing grade on the majority of his work to participate in a championship contest. This, it would seem, is fair to all concerned if rightly enforced. But the final results of the various contests have been such that a further restriction has been made,—that of an age qualification. This one we maintain is not fair to all high school students.

It so happens that the boys of the rural schools have not had the opportunities for school advantages that the town and city boys have, consequently they are in high school at a later age than the children of the city schools. The question is, should this misfortune which so many country boys have be further irritated by being debarred from participation in championship athletics? If so they should be refused

a place on the championship debating teams, and in brief from every activity and encouragement offered by our present North Carolina high schools. You see where the argument leads to. To my mind it is just as ethical to say to the high school boys over 21 years old, "You stay off my classes, you are a hinderance to the younger students."

North Carolina is a rural state, and because of that fact its educational rating has stood very low. Very recent years have made a great change. Ardent, sincere, country-minded teachers have been satisfied to go into remote country districts and encourage and stimulate interest where the glare of electric light is not known and where the sound of pavement is not heard. The fight has been hard. But it has not only brought into the school the young people of the country, it has likewise broadened the minds of the rural citizenship to the point that they carry bond and tax issues for public betterment almost as readily as do the city communities. Should the fruits of these efforts be carelessly regarded? Should these faithful toilers be told by their co-workers, the city men, to leave out their "ringers" (for such the over age students are called in athletics).

In a recent contest between a rural school and a city school in which the victory was overwhelmingly decisive for the city school, the following conditions prevail: The city school has perhaps 400 boys from which to pick its team, it has an arrangement for indoor games and athletic coaches and directors, it has a financial backing that will permit the purchase of suits and other paraphernalia necessary, the making of trips without expense to the players; all of which have allowed the playing of ten or a dozen games since the Christmas holidays. The rural school on the other hand has 40 boys from which to get its team, they have no coach or athletic director, no gymnasium or indoor court, consequently they have been able to play only one game since the holidays. Furthermore they have had to in the main pay for their athletic outfit and bear their proportionate part of the expense of the trips. Because of the fact that the center on this team happened to be over 21 years of age he was ruled off and as a result the organization of the team was greatly demoralized which made their defeat so decisive. Here is the question: Is this fair to all concerned?

What do you think of it high school people? Is my idea wrong or does it smack of something that should be reconsidered by the committee at the university?

Very truly yours,

T. E. STORY,

*Principal, Trinity High School, Trinity, N. C.*